

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action and the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to delete "or a nonwoven fabric laminate the major component of which is the thermoplastic synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric. In addition, all of claims 1-7 have been amended to change "yarn" to "fiber.

Concerning the phrase "maximum opening diameter" this is measured according to the method disclosed on page 16, line 31 to page 17, line 7 of the specification. JIS K-3832 corresponds to ASTM F316-86 (Bubble Point Method).

As is understood from this method, the maximum opening diameter is a maximum pore size in the nonwoven fabric, which is calculated by determining the air pressure when the initial bubble comes out.

It is believed claims 1-11 should now be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 3, 2007

By: 

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